

LE MOINDRE #27

Boyd Raeburn

189 Maxome Ave. Willowdale, Ont., Canada

FAPA Mailing 100. Aug. 1962

Everybody please note that there has been a change in my street number. I am still at the same place, but the numbers have changed.

I read most of mailing 99 yesterday and today (July 30) and in going through the mailing I naturally came upon Le Moindre #26, wherein I find I spoke about being very busy at that time and only having a chance to do some FAPAC at the last minute. The situation hasn't changed much. I have continued just as busy since the last mailing, if not more so, as far as work is concerned, special situations having arisen, and things being more hectic by people being away sick, on holiday, and quitting. A couple of tight squeezes were eased a little by getting an assistant for a few days at a time at \$50.00 a day, which is a lot to pay for assistance, but it was worth it for intelligent and competent help. I'm hoping that things will ease up a little in the future. This is the first Sunday I have had free for a looong time.

I also note that in LeM #26 I was commenting on the early hot weather. We are now getting early cold weather. Cloudy, cool, rainy, and all in all quite ridiculous. Every damn Sunday it is fine and sunny and altogether goshwow, and I'm working, so I decide I'll have a few Sundays to myself for a change, and the weather turns foul.

I heard somebody use the term "togethernesswise" on TV the other day.

The other day a branch manager of an insurance company was prosecuted for sending obscene material through the mails. (In New Zealand the public would label him a Big Business man, and use the case to bolster their impression that all Big Businessmen (i.e. any businessmen,) are EVIL) His lawyer made the defense that it is quite o.k. for consenting adults to send obscene material back and forth through the mails to each other, as long as in sealed envelope, for their own enjoyment, and that the intention of the criminal code is to prevent corruption of morals (such as using the mails to send Feeelthy Peectures to innocent adolescents) and the Crown Attorney said "Wha.....?" and the magistrate thunk it over, and agreed with the defense that "the collection and exchange of obscene pictures is a legal Canadian hobby" "Magistrate Thompson agreed with the argument but said he had "reasonable doubts" in dismissing the charge. 'This is one of the worst cases of pornography ever to come before me' he said." I am wondering whether the Crown will appeal. If this case should stand as a precedent, it means that as a Canadian I could with impunity belong to a Pornographic Amateur Press Association, if such existed and if I had the inclination to belong.

Recently I noticed that a nearby movie theatre was showing a double bill of Pillow Talk (with Doris Day and Rock Hudson and Tony Randall) and Pyjama Game (with Doris Day, Hohn Raitt and Carol Haney). Repected reviewers have often spoken highly of Pillow Talk, and I have been curious to hear it. Umpty years ago in New York I saw the original stage presentation of Pajama Game, and didn't much like it. The way everybody flipped over this show, I thought maybe my poor reaction to it was because I had a poor seat, or may have been in a bad mood, or whatever. So, I hied myself to the theatre, saw Pillow Talk, which was amusing, and then came Pajama Game. I didn't like it. In fact, I left before the end. I think that partially I just don't care too much for the show, or the music, and I definitely just don't care for John Raitt, who also was in the stage version. But I enjoy immensely every book by Richard Bissell I have ever read, and thought the stage version of Say, Darling was GREAT. Particularly great in it was

Robert Morse, who has since achieved great fame in How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. (the existence of which Bruce Pelz will discover in a few years time, no doubt, when Ted Johnstone plays him the original cast record.)

On the third floor of the Toronto Central Library is a theatre, small, steeply banked, so that one has an excellent view from any seat, and with a surprisingly large foyer. ("Darling!") I didn't know it existed, until last winter a theatre group (professional) took it over to present three plays for two or three months, putting on each of the three plays for a day or so each week. The plays were The Rivals (Sheridan) which received mixed notices, The Balcony (Genet) which received poor notices (for the production) and N.F. Simpson's One Way Pendulum which got raves. I managed to get to see One Way Pendulum on its last night. This play was presented in London with much acclaim. It had an Off-Broadway showing, and fared badly. Nathan Cohen, who is one of the best if not The best theatre critic in North America surmised at the time of the Off-Broadway version that perhaps the play did not cross the Atlantic well, as the O-B version, in his opinion, was poor, whereas the London presentation he had found to be a delight. Then came the Toronto version. This he rated far above to O-B version but still second to the London version. I wish I had seen the London version, for the play as I saw it here was a GAS. (Translation for Warner; it was interesting, amusing, intellectually stimulating, and excellently acted.) Very rough and brief outline: Family of mother, father, son and daughter. Son is teaching collection of Speak-Your-Weight weighing machines which he keeps in attic to sing the Hallelujah Chorus. Father has deep interest in law, and builds himself in living room replica of Old Bailey, where in second act he finds himself put on trial. Mother hires woman from next door to eat left-over food, and her conversation with the eater is wild and wonderful. Take a distilled essence of the Goon Shows (eliminating all the incoherency for one thing) and you have one of the ingredients of this play. The Trial Scene is a gem, and it alone deserves to be Preserved for Posterity. Incidentally it develops during the Trials that the Son has a passion for wearing black. The only way he can wear black is when he is in mourning. He needs reasons to go into mourning. He figures to teach the weighing machines to sing the Hallelujah chorus and then transport them to the North Pole. So many people will flock to the North Pole to jear this phenomenon that the earth will become unbalanced and tip, causing great floods which will drown many people and thus he will have many opportunities to wear Black. I have hear given only hints of the delights of this play. Doubtless much of its charm lies in skilfull presentation, but if the text is obtainable, to read it might convey some of the flavor. Unlike many of the modern playwrights, Simpson presents no Message (that I could see anyway). And this brings to mind Edward Albee. Any of you like Albee? I have seen The Death of Bessie Smith, Zoo Story, and The American Dream. It will be interesting to see what his forthcoming (and first full length play) Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf will be like.

Now for comments. I'm wondering how many people will make an extra big effort to put extra big items in the 100th mailing. I'm going to be lucky to get in four pages. If I don't finish this tonight, I won't be able to put typer to stencil for several more days, and the deadline looms awfully close.

LIGHTHOUSE - Carr Comments. "I think this must be the first time a FAPA official has ever admitted that he's made a howling blunder in his duties, then shrugged it off with no attempt whatsoever to correct his error." Not so; during the reign of the previous Corrupt California Administration a member tried to save his membership by postmailing. He postmailed after the deadline, but was still allowed to keep his membership. When this was pointed out to the relevant official he "shrugged it off with no attempt whatsoever to correct his error." What is there about California administrations? # I liked Carol's poems. Graham comments: I don't disagree with the concept that "society has responsibilities." However, there can be disagreement on the definition of "responsibilities." See Ashworth in FAPA 96. # The phone companies have divided the country into direct dialling areas. They claim that in each area they cannot devise enough exchange names which make sense. (such as Walnut or Butterfield) and thus they are converting to

all numbers. They are getting heavy opposition in places. # When you descend to small boy rudeness, as you did in your remarks to Phyllis Economou, I rather regret signing the petition to keep you in. There is one bright spot though - if you persist in behaving like a spoiled brat, and continue to act with lack of tact, and with rudeness, other members will feel no compunction in adopting a no-holds-barred approach to you when you come out with what they feel to be asinine observations. I guess it's no surprise that at times you act like a child, when so many of your ideas are so childish - or vice versa.

SERCON'S BANE -- Busby. On contemplation, I find that I have used Berton's Rules for Tourist Behaviour, though not too consciously. One has to use them with discretion though. Because tourists patronise a particular establishment doesn't mean that it is as good as another establishment tourists also patronise. Also, one has to consider the type of tourists who patronise a particular place. On the other hand, there are those who sneer at a particular establishment or place as "touristy". This is a nice general put-down, but they never define what they mean by "touristy" in the particular instance, and why it is baaad.

NULL-F - White. Has Graham infected you? Your sneer at Karen was quite uncalled for. You should move out of your glass house (or do Americans call it a "glass home"?) before throwing rocks.

NULL-F - Breen comments. I get the impression that you get the impression that Ray Charles is considered goshwow or something. Maybe in some circles, but I dislike greatly his "singing". I have had no trouble using Canadian nickels, dimes and quarters in U.S. pay phones or cigarette machines. # I wish you'd cut out this silly "disclaimer" stuff. # I just passed over the Graham idiocy of "If I disagree with someone it's because they are, on my terms, wrong (whereas I am right). Their mental agility therefore can't be good if it doesn't perceive the right." for what is the use of arguing, or trying to point out to Graham that He Is A Fugghead? Peter Graham sits in his majesty and considers himself Perfect. His everymost thought is Right and all those who do not agree with him all the way are 'in Error. # I didn't vote in the Fanac poll because every poll form I received was after the deadline, and there was no definite extension of deadline announced. # "Why not a vigilante committee instead?" It seems strange that you, of all people, should be advocating mob justice.

HORIZONS - Warner. It seems strange to have come across somebody else who has read Swastika Night. I had thought that to be an obscure book. Is it? I too keep reading "Silme" as "Slime". Austria has been doing some official protesting over Brinkley's report on Vienna. Brinkley has (or had) a weekly half hour show called "David Brinkley's Journal." It is some time since I've been able to watch it. When I did see it I found much of it interesting. However, one of the programs (in March, I think) was on the subject of a small Caribbean Island named Nevis. David Brinkley said that There Are No Hotels on Nevis. Americans had wanted to build a hotel on Nevis, but the local authorities wouldn't let them. I'm not quite sure what David Brinkley means by "a hotel"...maybe he has in mind another Fontainbleu (Miami Beach) but I was in Nevis last February, and I was staying at what I would consider a hotel, and it was owned by Americans (Frank and Inge Galey, of Jackson Hole, Wyoming) and from what I gather, the Authorities would have no objection to anybody else building a hotel on Nevis. David Brinkley also had some shots of the daily boat leaving for the island of St. Kitts. This he explained, was the ONLY way one could leave Nevis to go anywhere to get a ship or plane for the Outside World. One could put this down to ignorance, except that he also had a long sequence shot at Beachland's Plantation. The shortest way to Beachland Plantation goes right past the Nevis airport. True, the airport won't take anything much larger than a Beachcraft Bonanza, but I don't think the St. Kitts airport will handle jets either. # Sounds as though you now have a Norelco recorder. Right? Or are there other brands which will handle 3 speeds and quarter track tapes.

I have been flipping through zine after zine which I find has nary a checkmark. Many of them items I enjoyed a lot, too. Especially your material, Art Wilson.

SPEER: It may surprise you Jack, but I do not believe that all private ownership is ipso facto the greatest, and all public ownership evil. That which makes a buck is not necessarily in the greatest public interest. # But is Social Security an example of Government "producing" more cheaply than "private enterprise". I am under the impression that the U.S. "social security" is not self-supporting. # I Canada we have the National Employment Service, and also private employment agencies, the latter dealing almost wholly in clerical and sales and executive placement. The two types co-exist happily. In the case of the private agencies, however, the employer pays the fee. Private employment agencies which charge a fee to the employee are not allowed here.

VANDY - Coulsons. Buck: "We have a mixture of the German mentality combined with the English political setup..." Well, we in Canada have a political setup very close to that of the English, and I find that Americans have a hell of a time understanding it, and I have a hard time understanding the U.S. political system. Not that some Americans are much help. I remember once asking a Wisconsin fan "What's a primary?" and his replying "I don't know, we don't have them in Wisconsin." (I know know what a primary is, I think.)

PHANTASY PRESS - McPhail. Why apologize to Warner for "spending so much time on one subject"? A whole paragraph yet. When you have a subject on which you can expand, why not do so? Some of the members are sure to find it of interest, and those who don't can just skip it.

HOOH/H - Parker. Jolly good zine. Gad, I presume it takes very little ability to become a lawyer in Oklahoma. This "achievement" of Corey's really croggles me, and the newspaper clipping even more so. I don't think though that you can lay the blame for the bad reputation at one time of Oklahoma fandom all on Corey. Walt Bowart contributed a great deal.

SELF-PRESERVATION - Hoffman. Greatly enjoyed. I too flipped over the BULLWINKLE show, even though it kept being bumped for various other things. Then, I know not whether the Buffalo station showing it dumped it, or it just went off the air, but suddenly in its place was being shown re-re-runs of Lawman. Why are some of these cartoon shows, supposedly for kids (Bullwinkle, Jinx etc.) (as opposed to the junky cartoon shows which are for kids - Matty's Funday Funnies etc.) so much superior to the "adult" cartoon shows (such as The Flintstones) which are so nothing?

SALUD - E. Busby. PLEASE do not use that script type. It is hard to read, and most irritating. Also, L.A. uses it. Do you wish to be mistaken for L.A. Fandom? !
Damn damn damn. I didn't mean Winter Wonderland. I meant "Wonderland by night". Oh well.

DESCANT - Clarkes. To my great sorrow I have mislaid my copy. I hope it turns up sometime, for I treasure my file of Descants. No, Gina, "oui" is pronounced pretty damn close to "wee" in French french. You have run into a local pronunciation. You should not be afraid of making mistakes in pronunciation. Everybody does it when learning a language. As you noted, the french speakers in your area make mistakes in English pronunciation, but at least they try. Most people are very tolerant, and rather than sneer at your errors, they will be flattered that you are trying to speak their language. You shouldn't allow a bad experience with some children to put you off.

This is it fellow F.PAns. A last minute rush. Warner complains about the way he approaches Horizons with so little preparation. I should do so well. However, after wading through all those hundred page entries this mailing, maybe some of you will be grateful for a smaller item.